



PALM BEACH COUNTY'S PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT
Palm Beach County Reentry Task Force

Full Reentry Task Force Meeting
Wednesday, October 25, 2023 – 12PM
CareerSource PBC

Summary Meeting Minutes

Voting Members & Guests Present:

Vice Chair, Greg Starling, Department of Juvenile Justice

Adam Davis, PBC Library System
Alia Spencer, Palm Beach State College
Alicia Reno, Southeast Florida Behavioral Health Network
Dr. Angela Bess, School District of PBC (Virtual)
Anthony Rodriguez (Virtual)
Atensia Bowen, NAMI PBC
Barbara Gerlock, C15 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Chair
C. Veree Jenkins, Federation of Families
Carla Randle, The Reentry Center
Cassandra Atkin-Plunk, Florida Atlantic University
Chenise Bonilla, People of Purpose (Virtual)
Cheryl Mason, Florida Department of Corrections (Virtual)
Christina Morrison, Christina Morrison P.A.
Conrad Saddler, PBC Public Safety Department, Pre-Trial
Craig Spatara, GEO Group
Cristina Lucier, The Lord's Place
Darnel Paul, The Reentry Center
Darrell Guilford, GEO Group
Derek Gibson, Florida Department of Corrections
Edward Rufus, Florida Department of Corrections
Gayle Harrell, Another Chance Comm. Dev., Inc.
Helen Eddings, Anchor House
Jeffrey Gillen, 15th Judicial Circuit (Virtual)
Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender
Jessica Younts, Justice Impact Alliance
Jessie Fairbanks, The Lord's Place
John Eddings, Anchor House
Jonathan Bleiweiss, Florida Justice Center
Judson Pierre, The Lord's Place
Julia Dattolo, CareerSource of Palm Beach County
Kathleen Kroll, 15th Judicial Circuit
Kevin Jones, City of West Palm Beach Police Department
Kiera Hester, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
Kim Raynor, PBC Supervisor of Elections
Laura Waterman (Virtual)
Lauren Klemowich, PBC Supervisor of Elections
Leonard Neal, Glades Alliance Ministerial Assoc. (Virtual)

Louisena Augustin, SCMHC (Virtual)
Lynda Brown, LHUM
Lynn Trimble, Choice to Change, Inc.
Maggie Witherow, Restoration Destination
Marcia Bahia, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Maria Zuniga, PBC Supervisor of Elections
Natalie Dixon, FL Dept. of Corrections (Virtual)
Orie Bullard, The Reentry Center of Riviera Beach
Oswald Newbold, PBC Resident
Quantino Allen, Choice to Change, Inc.
Raynisha Perry, CareerSource PBC
Richard Sena (Virtual)
Sarita Johnson, LHUM
Shahzia Jackson, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office
Stephanie Thompson- (Virtual)
Tamara Starks, Palm Beach Sheriff's Office (PBSO)
Dr. Teresa Johnson, League of Cities – Town of Haverhill (Virtual)
Thomas Coles-Reyes, Another Chance Comm. Dev, Inc.
Todd Bonlarron, PBC Administration
Vanessa Klein, The Lord's Place
William Freeman, People of Purpose

Voting Members Absent:

Chair, Carey Haughwout, Office of the Public Defender
Alan Johnson, State Attorney's Office
Nancy McConnell, Rebel Recovery

PBC Public Safety Department Staff Present:

Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety Department
Cathy Wolf, PBC Public Safety Department
Jessica Hidalgo, PBC Public Safety Department
Les'Unique Hessing, PBC Public Safety Department
Nicole Bishop, PBC Public Safety Department
Randi Taylor, PBC Public Safety Department
Ron Dixon, PBC Public Safety Department
Shirlon St. Amour, PBC Public Safety Department
Stephanie Sejnoha, PBC Public Safety Department
Victoria Armand, PBC Public Safety Department
Yenefer Cerda, PBC Public Safety Department

- I. **Welcome, Opening Comments, and Introductions – Vice Chair, Chief Probation Office, Florida Department of Corrections**
- II. **Approval and/or Additions to the Preliminary Agenda**
Agenda approved with addition requesting a Youth Reentry Subcommittee update.
- III. **Approval and/or Corrections to the 7/26/2023 Minutes**
Minutes approved without corrections.
- IV. **Chairman's Comments, Vice Chair Greg Starling**
Vice Chair Starling extended special welcome to Ron Dixon, new Reentry Program Coordinator with the PBC Public Safety Department. He will lead the new BJA Grant focusing on crisis stabilization and behavioral health care for jail clients retuning to the Glades area.
- V. **Old Business/Follow-Up Items**
 - a. **Reentry Task Force Strategic Planning, Jennifer Loyless, Office of the Public Defender**
Jennifer Loyless summarized the discussion and action items resulting from strategic planning that took place on August 31, 2023. Next steps included refining the membership, goals, meeting logistics, and supporting documents of all of the subcommittees to report back to the Reentry Task Force, as indicated below.
 - i. **Subcommittee Updates:**
 1. Data & Evaluation: Members voted to dissolve this subcommittee after motion made by Tamara Starks and seconded by Julia Dattolo. The Sustainability Subcommittee will assume tasks related to data analysis to support all subcommittees.
 2. Employment, Training, & Education: A survey was distributed to members to develop comprehensive list of partners working with reentry clients. Subcommittee Chair requested a letter of support for HB97 & SB54 on Expungement of Criminal Records from the Reentry Task Force. Motion made by Kevin Jones to approve request, seconded by Tamara Starks. PBC Assistant County Administrator reported that he could assist with this effort.
 3. Housing: Subcommittee will review goals and membership at next meeting on January 11, 2024.
 4. Sexual Offenses: Next meeting was rescheduled to November 30, 2023, where goals and membership will be reviewed. Goals will include engaging more with PBSO SPOT Team and FDC Probation Officers.
 5. Sustainability: Jennifer Loyless was appointed as Chair due to disbanding of Data Subcommittee. Membership analysis highlighted the need to engage the PBC Commission/Mayor's Office, Legislative professionals, and marketing support through PBC Public Affairs.
 6. Youth Reentry: Chair, Judge Kathleen Kroll, updated that the subcommittee is prioritizing the initiative to work with DJJ, PBC, and community leaders to keep incarcerated youth *Closer to Home*. Mayor Gregg Weiss has been involved and supportive of the initiative. Dr. Barbara Gerlock was recently appointed to the Vice Chair role. Judge Kroll requested a letter of support from the Task Force to support the

initiative. Motion made by Oswald Newbold and seconded by Tamara Starks.

7. Faith: Subcommittee is prioritizing expansion of its membership and refining its goals at the next meeting in January. Goals will incorporate more community involvement and engaging faith institutions on-site. Meetings are currently held virtually and they are looking to expand to hybrid meetings.
8. Behavioral Health: Strategic planning identified a need for a Behavioral Health Subcommittee to unify efforts on building continuum of healthcare in PBC.

ii. Bylaws & Resolution

Task Force discussion expansion and refinement of voting membership. The PBC Resolution governing the Task Force must be amended to accommodate any additions and/or changes. It was discussed that we would refine the current membership categories to better incorporate community providers across the gamut of services. Future Task Force meetings will remain hybrid, but the PBC County Attorney made special note that voting members attending virtually are not awarded voting rights.

iii. Meeting Logistics

The Reentry Task Force discussed expanding to five meetings across the year (dates below). Motion made by Tamara Starks to implement five meetings, seconded by Kevin Jones. It was discussed that CareerSource would become the base location for these meetings due to location and accessibility. The Task Force and all subcommittees would try to host at least one meeting each in the Glades within the year.

- iv. Quarterly Data Snapshot:** Reentry Task Force Membership discussed the importance of streamlining reentry data reporting and making data-driven decisions to drive reentry work. It was requested that PBC implement quarterly data snapshots for presentation at Reentry Task Force meetings and to inform the subcommittees in their ongoing work.

b. Criminal Justice Commission & Reentry Task Force Coordination Update

i. Glades Initiative, Jessica Hidalgo, Manager of Criminal Justice Programs, PBC Public Safety Department

1. The Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) awarded PBC Public Safety Department a \$750,000 grant to provide crisis stabilization to individuals returning from jail to the Glades areas. Currently in the planning phase.

ii. Outreach Video, Jessica Hidalgo

1. Channel 20 filmed and are currently editing a video at Moorehaven Correctional Institution that will be utilized to provide awareness and outreach to prospective reentry clients.

iii. Florida Department of Corrections Outreach via DTEN Monitors, Arlene Griffiths, PBC Public Safety Department

Arlene Griffiths thanked the Florida Department of Corrections for their collaboration in using the DTEN monitors to connect with 3 major prisons to outreach to clients: Okeechobee CI, South Florida Reception Center, and Martin CI.

VI. New Business

VII. Sago Palm Reentry Center Update

Deferred to next meeting.

VIII. Additional Member and Guest Comments

- a. Mayor Gregg Weiss joined the PBC RESTORE adult reentry program in visiting the Sago Palm Reentry Center on August 18th.
- b. PBC Resource Fair will be held on September 9 at Vita Nova in WPB.
- c. FYI: Join the Reentry Summit Webinar, Peer Connections in Reentry, today at 4PM.
- d. SAVE THE DATE: 2024 PBC Reentry Summit will take place on October 9-11.

IX. Next Steps

- a. Recap Action Items:
 - i. Subcommittees will meet to update goals and report out at January meeting.
 - ii. Research current community collaborations in preparation for implementation of new Behavioral Health Subcommittee.
 - iii. Disband Data & Evaluation Subcommittee.
 - iv. Draft proposed updates to the PBC Resolution outlining changes to the voting membership.
 - v. Draft and implement Quarterly Data Reporting on reentry services.
 - vi. Letter of Support for Youth Reentry Subcommittee, *Closer to Home Initiative*
 - vii. Letter of Support for Employment Subcommittee, *Expungement Bills*
- b. 2024 Meeting Dates: January 25, March 27, May 22 (Glades), August 28, October 23

X. Adjournment